

**Inspection of Aviaries as a Measure in the Control of Psittacosis.**—Aviary inspection was established by the State Department of Public Health about the middle of January. From that time through the end of March, a total of 423 aviaries, containing 58,798 birds, were inspected. Nearly 53,000 of these birds were parrakeets, 3,300 love birds, and 427 parrots.

**Unreasonable Swimming in Lakes and Streams Prohibited.**—A recent opinion by the attorney general of Section 5 of the Public Health Act, prohibiting swimming or washing clothes in streams, lakes and reservoirs used or intended to be used for drinking purposes, holds that the section must be interpreted in the light of the remainder of the act and of other statutes and therefore not as an absolute prohibition. But unreasonable use or abuse can be prohibited.

**Immunization Clinics in Orange County.**—During March, the Orange County Health Department, of which Dr. K. H. Sutherland is Health Officer, conducted sixteen immunization clinics. In these clinics, 383 individuals were vaccinated against smallpox and 567 received the complete immunization against diphtheria. During the first three months of the year, a total of fifty-six such clinics has been held in Orange County, in which 632 individuals were vaccinated against smallpox and 1,602 immunized against diphtheria. These figures represent nearly double the number of immunizations that were done during the first three months of the year 1931. The Orange County immunization program for 1932 is now well on its way.

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.  
Secretary

### News Items, June 1932

On May 2, 1932, Governor James Rolph, Jr., announced the appointment of Doctors Charles T. Sturgeon and W. R. Molony of Los Angeles and Fred DeLappe of Modesto as members of the State Board of Medical Examiners. Doctor DeLappe, appointed for a term expiring January 15, 1935, succeeds Dr. George Dock of Pasadena, term expired. Doctor Sturgeon, appointed for a term expiring January 15, 1935, succeeds Dr. H. M. Robertson of Santa Ana, and Dr. William R. Molony, appointed for a term expiring January 15, 1935, succeeds Dr. Harry V. Brown of Glendale.

"The status of the Superior Court, Appellate Department, as a tribunal of last resort, is questioned in a petition for writ of error on file today in the State Supreme Court, in which City Prosecutor Johnson asserts that the Supreme Court has the inherent power to set aside decisions of the department that are in conflict with decisions of the District Court of Appeal. The writ of error petition, a rare proceeding, attacks the ruling of the Appellate Department, rendered March 25 last, in which it held that W. I. Schuster, a chiropractor, could not be prosecuted under the Medical Practice Act for any misuse of the prefix 'Dr.' but must be prosecuted therefor under the Chiropractic Act, if at all. The department's decision, as reported in 69 C. A. D. (Supplement 35): . . . Unless the Supreme Court can take jurisdiction, the petition continues: 'An anomalous condition exists whereby the decisions of the inferior court are superior to the decisions of said District Court of Appeal, for the reason that the writ exists to have the Supreme Court determine the correctness of the decision of the said District Court, while no means exists whereby the errors of the said Appellate Department of the Superior Court may be reviewed'" Los Angeles Journal, May 5, 1932).

"Investigation of a San Francisco diploma mill yesterday was being made in the bay city by Dr. Charles B. Pinkham, secretary of the State Board of Medical Examiners. With American Medical Association officials and postal authorities, Doctor Pinkham was investigating the activities of the 'Carnagey Medical College of San Francisco.' . . . The case arose out of the arrest in Connecticut of 'Dr.' Paul Roger Zahlmann, convicted on charges of violating the Medical Practice Act. Zahlmann testified he attended school in San Francisco, displaying a diploma from a college found to be nonexistent . . ." (Sacramento Union, April 27, 1932).

At a recent hearing before San Francisco Deputy District Attorney Leslie Gillen, based upon a complaint as to the *modus operandi* of certain hospital associations, it is reported that Mr. H. N. Duhem, said to control a large number of such hospital companies, all having offices at 733 Phelan Building, San Francisco, offered an explanation regarding "a complaint of the nonfulfillment of a contract" on the part of one of the hospital associations, assertedly to be under his management. An interesting feature developed in that, according to reports, a large number of these companies are said to exist in name only, there being no record of their incorporation, while other companies are said to have forfeited their corporation rights through failure to pay their state franchise tax.

Complaint was recently filed with the Board of Medical Examiners that individuals claiming to represent the "National Farm Health Bureau" and the "Metropolitan Health Bureau," alleged organizations not incorporated in the State of California, are selling in rural communities health policies, assertedly claiming connection with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, which organization is reported to be taking legal steps to stop this misrepresentation.

"A warrant for the arrest of Dr. Percy D. Purviance, head of the Golden Gate Chiropractic College, was issued yesterday by Deputy District Attorney Leslie C. Gillen. The warrant was issued on complaint of Mrs. Bessie Leone, who, according to the complaint, charged that Doctor Purviance offered to sell her the degree 'Doctor of Chiropractic' for the sum of \$600."

"Branded by the Grand Duchess Marie of Russia as an impostor, a man who said he was 'General Veriegui' and 'The Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich of Russia, today was identified by police as R. H. W. Albrextondare, a fake healer and swindler. Policewoman Mary Ross said that Albrextondare, who was charged with renting a uniform for \$12.50 and having himself photographed as a 'Grand Duke,' had a long police record that included several swindles and jail sentences" (Press dispatch, Los Angeles, April 20, printed in the San Francisco Call, April 20, 1932). (Previous entries June, 1925; March, 1926; February and December, 1927; July, 1930.)

On May 7, 1932, Governor James Rolph, Jr., appointed Warren B. Davis, D. O., of Long Beach to the Board of Osteopathic Examiners for the term expiring December 21, 1934, vice A. V. Kalt, D. O., of Pasadena.

According to reports from the State Narcotic Division, Samuel Pink Burre, M. D., on May 6 pleaded guilty in the Police Court of Eureka to a charge of violation of the State Narcotic Law and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$30.

According to reports, Filiberto A. Bonaventura, M. D., recently pleaded guilty to a charge of violation of the Harrison Act in Columbus, Ohio, and was sentenced to imprisonment for a period of three years and to pay a fine of \$600, said sentence being suspended and defendant placed on probation, he being permitted to pay \$100 on account of the fine, the bal-

ance thereof to be paid by October 1, 1932, "or said defendant to stand committed to the county jail until paid."

"Dr. J. Coleman Browne of Stockton and Walter Skotlund, Santa Cruz insurance man, who pleaded guilty to securing a false affidavit for Daniel Curley, war veteran, yesterday reimbursed the Government for \$2,500, the sum paid to Curley. They were then released by order of United States District Judge A. T. St. Sure, who had announced that he would modify the sentences of one year in jail, provided restitution was made. The defendants were placed on probation for one year" (San Francisco *Examiner*, May 8, 1932).

"Edward Cavanaugh, in jail in Los Angeles, yesterday was identified by Mrs. Johanna Zeh of Antelope Valley as one of three men who she says swindled her out of \$1,000 through the medium of the age-old eye treatment racket, according to a telegram received by District Attorney Neil R. McAllister here yesterday from Harry Knoll, County Detective. . . . According to Mrs. Zeh, Cavanaugh acted as contact man for the trio of swindlers. He appeared at Mrs. Zeh's home in the guise of a spectacle salesman and fitted her eyes for glasses. He pretended to discover an 'ailment' in one of her eyes, which he told her could be cured only by radium treatment. He assertedly recommended a 'Doctor Miles,' another member of the gang. 'Doctor Miles' appeared on the scene at a later day and administered 'radium,' which turned out to be drops of clear water. By a sleight-of-hand movement the 'doctor' produced a small particle of substance which he told the patient had been removed by application of 'radium.' He accepted \$1,000 for his fee, the woman says. The same gang is said to have swindled Charles Dixon, Elk Grove rancher, out of \$3,500 through a similar racket. Dr. Charles B. Pinkham, secretary of the Board of Medical Examiners, has been waging a campaign against swindlers of this type for several years and the board has broadcast thousands of pamphlets warning gullible people against the fraud. . . ." (Sacramento *Union*, April 21, 1932).

Reports relate that Jong Jou Choy, operating the Chun Kong Herb Company at El Centro, on April 22 pleaded guilty to a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 and serve sixty days in jail, sentence being suspended on condition of no further violation.

Reports relate that Burpee Cooper, M. D., recently pleaded guilty in Eureka to a charge of violation of the State Narcotic Law and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$30.

"Burt Cohn of Oakland was arrested last night in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on a fraud charge, growing out of his radio broadcasts as 'Maharajah the Great.' Mrs. Ada Sheeley, who filed the charges, said her unemployed husband, responding to Cohn's radio offers, paid him \$1 for a reading, and that she made an appointment for another reading at a cost of \$10, for which she was to receive 'reducing salts.' Meantime she said she notified the police and paid Cohn in marked bills" (Sacramento *Bee*, April 28, 1932). The radio has opened a new and lucrative avenue for buncombe.

Matthew O. Wilkinson, alleged eyesight swindler, recently returned by authorities from Texas, is said to be the individual who, in 1930, posing as a business man formerly of Bishop, Inyo County, interceded in behalf of eyesight swindlers Frank Faircloth and John F. Gebhart, mentioned in the 1930 annual report of the Board of Medical Examiners. Failing to appear in the Justice Court of Chula Vista on April 19, 1932, cash bail of \$200 deposited by his attorney was said to have been declared forfeited, whereupon a bench warrant was issued and his bond applied in payment of a \$200 fine. He is, assertedly, the brother of Elliott Wilkinson, eyesight swindler, now said to be serving a term in prison at Stillwater, Minnesota.

"Pleading guilty to a charge of practicing medicine without a license, Mrs. Ella Harry, masseuse, arrested at 229 East Weber Avenue, was given a 180-day suspended sentence yesterday by Police Judge Johnson. Suspended sentence was pronounced on condition she leave the state and not return for two years. She was given until eight o'clock last night to leave Stockton" (Stockton *Record*, May 5, 1932). Investigation disclosed she held a chiropractic diploma from the American University of Chiropractic dated August 3, 1923, she assertedly admitting that she attended this college for only one week; however, she was unable to tell where in Chicago it was located. She stated if she returned to California she would file an application for a chiropractic license.

"Richard J. Howard, sixty-one, self-styled 'Doctor,' was arrested here this morning by J. W. Davidson of the State Board of Medical Examiners and Deputy Sheriff John Ellis of Sonoma County on the complaint of District Attorney Albert F. Ross of Shasta County. Howard is charged with having jumped his bail in Shasta County in September, 1929, while awaiting trial for violation of the Medical Practice Act following the death of Mrs. Paul Ruth in a confinement case in Shasta County. At the time of his arrest in 1929 Howard claimed he had been a physician in charge of a hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. . . . Howard is alleged to have told the authorities here that he received his medical training from his brothers, who were veterinary surgeons" (Press dispatch, Santa Rosa, April 21, printed in the Sacramento *Bee*, April 21, 1932).

Jefferson Hocker on April 19 pleaded guilty in the Justice Court of San Diego on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, suspended on condition that he not again violate any provisions of the Medical Practice Act for a period of six months.

" . . . The National Sanatorium Corporation, Ltd., of which I. C. Jones, cancer treatment expert is president, asked for a permit to use the building at 630 The Esplanade as headquarters for the work. Roy Applegate was named as secretary of the corporation in the petition filed with the Council. . . ." (Chico *Record*, May 5, 1932).

Reports relate that Mrs. C. P. Ohlson on April 25 pleaded guilty in San Luis Obispo to a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act and was fined \$100, suspended for six months on condition that she discontinue business immediately.

"Dr. Edward H. Purcell, 523 Fifteenth Street, Oakland, one of several northern California physicians charged with participation in a veterans' compensation fraud conspiracy, was fined \$500 today by Federal Judge Kerrigan and given six months' probation. . . ." (San Francisco dispatch dated April 15, printed in the Oakland *Tribune*, April 25, 1932).

"Mrs. Virginia G. Rocine, wife of a visiting 'personality' lecturer, pleaded guilty to a violation of the state medical practice law today and was fined \$250 by Justice Eugene Daney, Jr. Judge Daney suspended the fine on condition that she violate no further laws for a year. . . ." (San Diego *Tribune*, April 21, 1932).

Walter Rittenhouse was on April 26 adjudged guilty in the Justice Court of San Diego on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act and sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, suspended one year on condition of no further violation of the law.

"Charged with defrauding William H. Hilts, seventy, of \$4,700, while treating him for an illness, Henry K. Snyder, chiropractor, was held under \$2,500 bond for Superior Court trial on grand theft charges by Superior Judge Joseph Chambers" (Hollywood Citizen *News*, April 19, 1932).